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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hiroaki SUGITA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1775

Application No.: 10/667,493

Examiner: A. TURNER

Filed: September 23, 2003

Docket No.: 117257

For: COATED BODY AND PROCESS OF MANUFACTURING THE COATED BODY

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the June 16, 2005 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group III, claims 7-9, with traverse.

Claims 7-9 of Group III depend from claim 1 of Group I, and thus include all of the features of claim 1. Accordingly, a thorough search for the subject matter of Group III would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of Group I. Thus, the search and examination of Groups I and III could be made without serious burden on the Examiner. In addition, claims 4-6 of Group II also depend on claim 1, and include its features.

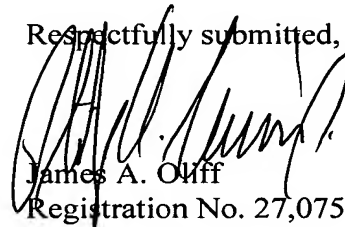
Accordingly, a thorough search for the subject matter of Groups I and III would also encompass a search for the subject matter of Group II. Thus, the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden on the Examiner.

Because the search and examination of all of Groups I-III could be made without serious burden on the Examiner, Examiner must examine the entire application on its merits. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire

application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:PAC/brc

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